

BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (MAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE - Betty Gosney, Jacqueline Cox, Lynda Gonzalez, Adrian McDaniel, Eric Scott, Andrew Holmes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Jacqueline Cox motioned to approve the minutes for the June 7, 2011 meeting and Lynda Gonzalez seconded the motion.

STAFF REPORTS

Sheriff's Department – Sgt. Maggie Finneran reported that her department was utilizing a vehicle with an advanced camera system that automatically takes pictures of car license plates and informs them if the vehicle is stolen. She invited volunteers to participate in the sheriff's Citizens on Patrol Program, for a commitment of eight hours per month. She stated that with the help of Sheriff's narcotics division, they closed a medical marijuana dispensary on Cedar and Valley Avenue. Sgt. Finneran advised the residents not to intervene with the operations of the dispensaries for their own safety, and answered questions from the audience.

SANBAG – Tim Watkins followed up on the Eastbound Cedar off ramp question from the last meeting. The K-rails were put there as a result of new striping to accommodate additional capacity on the ramp for left and right movement. It used to be a single lane. However, Mr. Soto clarified that he was referring to the emergency parking lane off the freeway. Mr. Watkins plans to follow up and report back next month. The project is advancing. The support beams are now up in the center of the freeway. The Eastbound I-10 Freeway will be closed on July 22nd from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and Westbound on July 23. This will shave off about a week from the overall project timeline. There has been a detour adjustment at Pepper Ave. and that Advantech has made minor timing to the signals which have helped with traffic flow. He spoke about more awareness and consumption at businesses and restaurants impacted by the construction, and answered questions from the audience.

Code Enforcement – David Jorgenson reported that the Code Enforcement budget had been adopted and that staff numbers were steady, but more officers are needed. They lost funding for illegal dumping surveillance around landfills. A new officer will be assigned to help with the high case load in Bloomington. Ignacio Nunez is the Code Enforcement Supervisor for the Bloomington area. They are recruiting for a new Code Enforcement Chief and a Senior Code Enforcement Officer. One officer will be conducting medical marijuana enforcement for the entire county. The Board passed the updated ordinance for enforcing medical marijuana dispensaries. Some shops are affected financially by the fines but other shops with larger budgets are not affected by the fines and consider them a cost of doing business. The PACE program is ending due to its one-year federal funding time frame. A 70% overall rate of voluntary compliance was reached primarily through education and outreach. There were 12 projects over the year and 160 cases remain open in all the communities in the PACE program. Overall statistics: Officers sent 1660 tires to recycling facilities, and sent 15 tons of debris and 2600 illegal signs to the landfill. PACE Cleanup collections: 150 tons of waste, 20 tons of tires, 8 tons of E-waste, and 4 tons of metal. The Special Projects group will no longer be able to provide Community Cleanup events. He reported that the Graffiti system is working, and addressed complaints regarding the weed abatement program, and answered questions from the audience. New phone numbers: Rancho office for Code Enforcement, general number: 909-948-5075; Fire Hazard and Abatement general number: 909-387-4044; Graffiti Hotline: 1-877-44-ABATE; Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement: 760-228-5410; Toll-free Countywide Code Enforcement / EHS complaint number during normal

business hours: 1-800-722-3181.

Special Districts – Tim Millington reported that Bloomington has four life guards and they teach the swim classes from 9:30 a.m. until noon. There is an open swim session in the afternoon. Electrical upgrades have been made to Ayala Park - LEED lights will also be installed. The Kessler Park improvement projects are under construction. Special Districts submitted their Prop 84 application for round two of the 1.2 million dollar grant to improve the fields and turn it into a multi-purpose field. The old fire station now has a new fence which looks nice and helped secure the building.

Field Representative – Frances Vasquez brought greetings from Supervisor Josie Gonzales, and presented Andrew Holmes with a Certificate of Recognition for his service on the MAC as a youth member and congratulated him on his graduation from Bloomington High School. She said that he is possibly the only MAC youth member in the County and the State.

The Office of Emergency Services announced the opening of official Cooling Centers County-wide and provided additional information on how to “beat the heat” with suggestions for “cool places to go” should the excessive heat become a life safety issue. The nearest Cooling Center is at the Bloomington Branch Library, 10145 Orchard St. Hours of operation are: Monday & Tuesday, 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday & Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Vasquez announced “Heat Safety Tips for Pet Owners” put out by Animal Care and Control, and reminded pet owners to be extra watchful of pets when temperatures rise this Summer. She provided a handout.

She reported that as anticipated, several medical marijuana dispensaries are mounting challenges to both the citation process and the permanent County ordinance. Several facility operators have appealed the administrative citations, but our County citations continue to be upheld. In addition, several dispensaries have each initiated some form of legal action against the County and most of these matters are scheduled to be heard through the months of July and August. Ms. Vasquez added that she read a recent report stating that some marijuana dispensaries closed down by the County have reopened under a different name. The fines do not seem to deter these organizations. She commended the hard work and diligence of Sheriff and Code Enforcement officers in pursuing violations of the County ordinance.

Fictitious Business Name Customer Alert – Misleading Business Solicitations - The County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk issued an advisory that solicitations are being sent to business owners alerting them that their Fictitious Business Name (FBN) Statements have expired. These solicitations are also being sent to business owners who have recently filed FBN Statements. Although these solicitations appear to be official, they are not being made by the San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk’s Office. Be aware that some of these solicitations might contain one or more of the following: Envelope contains an official-looking seal, quote a specific statute or other law on the form to be filled out and returned, quote a fee for publication which the Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk’s Office does not collect; reference to fees estimating from \$125.00 to \$500.00

Renewal letters are mailed from the San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk to business owners approximately one month before the FBN Statements are to expire. A business owner can file an FBN Statement in person or by mail. The filing fee is **\$40.00** for one business name and one registrant. The fee for additional business names at the same location and/or additional owners is \$10.00 per name. Further information about FBN Statements can be obtained from their website. Ms. Vasquez provided handouts on this scam.

Ms. Vasquez consulted with County Dept. of Public Works regarding the construction approach of the Santa Ana Road Repaving Project. She thanked Pam Geil for the inquiries she made. The work is ongoing and DPW offered clarification: The impact of traffic on the asphalt pavement is much greater in the travel lanes, where the cars actually travel, than the shoulder area located outside of the travel way. The Santa Ana project was designed for full reconstruction of the pavement within the travel lanes to withstand this greater wear and tear and partial reconstruction of the pavement in the shoulder areas where the traffic impact is less. The top layer of pavement for Santa Ana will be applied to the entire roadway, including roadway shoulders, and will not only give the appearance of a totally new road it should also wear evenly. DPW utilizes Caltrans standards for pavement design which is based on amount of traffic, type of traffic, the condition of the soil under the asphalt, and other factors. The cost to mill and overlay a road can be up to less than half than to pulverize and repave. The entire roadway, including roadway shoulders will be paved with a final asphalt overlay of 0.15' thick and will give the appearance of a totally new road and it should also wear evenly.

The Countywide Vision was unveiled and considered for endorsement last week following 18 community meetings, nearly 4,000 Online surveys, two dozen expert roundtables and input from the county's 24 cities. The Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino Associated Governments board met at the Maloof Foundation for Arts & Crafts in Rancho Cucamonga for a special joint public meeting to endorse the Vision, which can be viewed at www.sbcounty.gov/vision. She provided handouts.

Discussion was held regarding suggestions for MAC meeting outreach. Ms. Vasquez stated that in keeping with Brown Act requirements, the Agenda is posted on Supervisor Gonzales' website at least 72 hours prior to the meetings. She will look into making the Supervisor's website more user friendly for accessing of the MAC Agenda.

Staff Transition –Ms. Vasquez announced that this would be her last MAC meeting representing Supervisor Gonzales, and was planning to retire. She is scheduled to be on staff through the end of July, and introduced Ms. Angel Baltazar who will take over duties relating to Bloomington MAC. She stated that Ms. Baltazar has a strong background in County Public health and they would be in good hands. She thanked MAC members and community for the opportunity to get to know many of them as good, civically engaged citizens of Bloomington - people who care about their community. She expressed that it was her honor to have worked on community projects with the Bloomington residents.

Commendations - Chair Betty Gosney and Vice Chair Jacqueline Cox presented certificates of Recognition to Ms. Vasquez and Mr. Carballo on Behalf of the Bloomington MAC and residents. Jesse Valenzuela presented certificates on behalf of Congressman Joe Baca, and David Soto presented commendations on behalf of the Bloomington Community Boosters.

As the MAC "Youth Member," Andrew Holmes provided an update of Bloomington High School fire-rebuilding and other events. He stated that it was determined the fire was due to arson and incurred \$250,000 in damages. The various student clubs within the school volunteered in the cleanup. He plans to go to college and apply for membership on the MAC and if approved will be the youngest MAC member after he turns 18 years old this Fall.

OLD BUSINESS

Rialto Commerce Center Subcommittee – Adrian McDaniel reported that they had not met with the City of Rialto, and no information has been shared by the City. He stated that the City (and County) of Riverside initiated litigation against the City of Rialto, and surmised that not too much would happen with the project.

Transportation Subcommittee – Lynda Gonzalez stated that they plan to meet one hour before the general MAC meeting and the public is welcome to attend. They will be discussing traffic issues in the area. Mr. Watkins from SANBAG offered to assist with information from his office.

MEMBER REPORTS

Adrian McDaniel- received a weed abatement letter but the weeds were not on his property. He was opposed to the location of the medicinal marijuana dispensaries. He would like the county to be more proactive in enforcement of the dispensaries. He suggested having a Community Board so that the residents stay informed. Andrew Holmes will work on creating an Online community board forum.

Jacqueline Cox stated that they went to Yucaipa to see the fireworks, and when she returned home, she observed that there was no apparent enforcement of the County fireworks ban in Bloomington.

Lynda Gonzalez invited the women in the audience to join the Bloomington Woman's Club. The club was established in 1922, and meetings are held in the community center at Ayala Park. They plan to hold a "meet-and-greet event with a Hawaiian theme. They held two informal planning meetings and are working on their budget. She thanked Ms. Vasquez for her service over and beyond the call of duty, and stated that she met her when Ms. Vasquez worked for the late Senator Nell Soto, and wished her well wherever she goes.

Eric Scott thanked Ms. Vasquez and Mr. Carballo for their service. He also reminded the residents to look after their pets especially during the heat wave. He announced the County Museum was hosting their 1920's Great Gatsby event on Saturday and invited the public to attend and enjoy a fun evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Davenport recommended more publicity on MAC meetings, and suggested a feature story on the MACs in the newspaper for more exposure. Antonio Carrillo passed out flyers regarding Burglary Prevention. He provided the residents with a website that allows you to input an address and it will show the crimes that have been committed in the area: Crimemapping.com.

NEXT MEETING – August 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.